

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please insert the following on page 1, between the Title and
before line 1:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Application No. 10/567,949
Filed: September 18, 2006
TC Art Unit: 1797
Confirmation No.: 5558

Please insert the following on page 2, before line 1:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Application No. 10/567,949
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Please insert the following on page 3, between lines 5 and 6:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

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Please insert the following on page 3, between lines 13 and 14:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 14 on page 3 and ending at line 8 on page 4 with the following:

The exemplary embodiments of an in-line filter F according to the invention represented in the Figures are provided with a substantially elongated filter housing 1 (Fig. 1) and 51 (Fig. 2) in which filtering material A can be included. On a first end, the filter housing 1, 51 is provided with an inflow opening 2 and on a second, opposite end with an outflow opening 3. At the inflow opening 2 and the outflow opening 3, fastening means 4, 5, 6, 7 are provided for fastening a supply or a discharge tube 8, or 9, respectively. The fastening means are quick-change couplings 4, 5; 6, 7 have a coupled condition and an uncoupled condition. In the quick-change coupling, a shut-off valve 10 (see Fig. 3) is provided which, in the coupled condition, assumes an opened position and thus allows gas to pass and which, in an uncoupled condition, assumes a closed position and thus does not allow gas to pass. The shut-off valve 10 of the quick-change coupling 4, 5; 6, 7 forms part of the part 4, 6 of the quick-change coupling, 4, 5, 6, 7 that remains connected to the supply or discharge tube, 8 or 9, respectively, such that in the uncoupled condition the supply or discharge tube, 8 or 9, respectively, is hardly, if at all, polluted by air. Each quick-change coupling 4, 5; 6, 7 comprises a male part 4, 6 and a female part 5, 7 through which a

bore 11 (see Fig. 3) extends, which forms the fluid communication between the supply or discharge tube, 8 or 9, respectively, and the inflow opening 2 or outflow opening 3, respectively, of the filter housing 1, 51. With the male part 4 or 6-5, respectively, and the female part 5 or 7, respectively, in coupled condition, the quick-change coupling 4 - 7 is in the coupled condition and the shut-off valve 10 is opened. With the male part 4, 6 and the female part 5, 7 in an uncoupled condition, the quick-change coupling 4 - 7 is in the uncoupled condition and the shut-off valve 10 is closed.

Please amend the paragraph on page 7, lines 4-19, as follows:

With the aid of the clamp fittings-2726, the male parts 4, 6 are connected once to the supply or discharge tube 8 or 9, respectively. Then, the in-line filter F can be included in the tube system through connection of the male parts 4, 6 to female parts 5, 7 of the in-line filter F. This is effected by manually screwing the fastening ring 22 provided with outer thread in the female part 5, 7. With it, the male parts 4, 6 are pressed tight in the female parts 5, 7. Also, the shut-off valve 10 is opened in that the point of the valve stem 15 meets the Teflon sealing cap 19 also serving as a stop. Moreover, the valve stem 15 pierces the Teflon cap such that the filtering material is put in fluid communication with the supply and discharge tube 8, 9. Upon detachment, the fastening ring 22 is loosened again. When, thereupon, the male parts 4, 6 are removed from the female parts 5,7, the shut-off valve 10 will be brought back into the closed position under the influence of the spring 13 so that no open communication between the atmosphere and the tube system is formed. As a result thereof, after changing the filter F, extensive rinsing is not necessary.

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Please insert the following on page 9 before the first claim:

What I claim is: